

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice-Chairperson; Mary Walsh; Valerie Zuercher; Mark Rafanelli, and Robert Bollengier. Gregory Coutcher, Clerk was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross and Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Walsh read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – Mark and Lisa Tourgee of West Greenwich voiced their concerns that without notice, a doctor was hired to replace two physical therapists from Right Choice Physical Therapy who have been volunteering their services to the football program [on and off the field] for at least the past three-years. Mr. Tourgee expressed his opinion that the football program should have been informed before this individual was hired. He said that he is offended, team members are upset, and this matter needs to be rectified. Chair DeSack said

that the School Committee is unaware of the change and asked Dr. Geismar for clarification on what prompted the change. Dr. Geismar said that he never intended to remove Right Choice from what they are doing. He just wanted to have a certified first responder on the field in the event of an emergency. He does not like football games to be played without a first responder present. He wanted EMS there; however, it is hit or miss with EMS. Dr. Geismar said he made the decision to use Foundry Sports Medicine & Fitness. Initially, he was told at a Superintendents' meeting that Foundry's services were free. However, there is a \$100 per game fee. He said that he is willing to pay the \$100 himself. Foundry supplies either a certified athletic provider [who would be considered a certified first responder] or an MD for game-day coverage. Foundry is there in a different capacity than Right Choice. Dr. Geismar said that he did not think that Foundry would interfere with Right Choice's role. Mr. Tourgee said he could make sure an ambulance is at every game. Dr. Geismar said that he would contact Right Choice to clarify his intentions and clear up this miscommunication. Principal Butler agreed that the football community trusts Right Choice emphatically. He explained that RI Interscholastic League requires the home school to provide the services of a licensed doctor and/or a licensed athletic trainer at all football games. Right Choice is just short of meeting the qualifications. Principal Butler said the district would work with Right Choice to get them what they need. Chair DeSack said that this item would be added to the next regular meeting agenda. The committee agreed with Chair DeSack that the priority now is to contact Exeter

and West Greenwich to have EMS on the field on game days, get Right Choice Physical Therapy back on the field, and discontinue the services of Foundry Sports Medicine & Fitness. Next, Mr. Tourgee raised the concern that the concession stand needs to be cleaned out so it can be used to sell refreshments. A brief discussion ensued regarding what is presently stored in the concession stand, cleaning out the

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 2

concession stand, the new storage shed, and why the new storage shed has not been wired for electricity yet. Chair DeSack requested administration research this matter and update the School Committee at the next meeting.

Presentation – None

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member Bollengier made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Member Walsh seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes - Regular Minutes of August 24, 2010

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Robin Corsi as .4 FTE Child Outreach Coordinator (Grant Funded), Step 6, Masters, Annual Salary \$21,570.19, effective on or about September 15, 2010**

2. Leaves of Absence – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

- a. Request from Catherine Colomb for a leave of absence for the 2011 – 2012 school year in order to continue her two-year commitment as a Teacher-in-Residence for the GEMS-Net program through the University of Rhode Island**

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

- a. Letter of Resignation from Kristyn Storti from her position as Sr. High Girls' Basketball Assistant Coach, effective August 31, 2010**
- b. Letter of Resignation from Christine DiMeglio from her position as Secretary to the Director of Special Education, effective September 23, 2010**
- c. Letter of Resignation from Frederick Carpenter from his position as Sr. High School Physical Education/Health Teacher [and Department Chair], for the purpose of Retirement, effective June 17, 2010**

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – In the amount of \$183,960.69; Accruals in the amount of \$18,444.89

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 3

D. Home School Approvals

- 1. BUCKLEY – Christiana**
- 2. BUCKLEY – Taylor, Nicholas, Alexandra, Zachary**
- 3. GREENE – Kyle, Rachel, Stephanie, Jaclyn**
- 4. IVES – Alexander, Jennifer**
- 5. RUTHERFORD – Nicholas, Christian**
- 6. SEPE – Andrea and Dominique**
- 7. SPECIALE – Nikki, Mia**
- 8. WILKINS – Shawna, Jason, Daniel, Andrew**

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – (1) September 2, 2010 letter to Brian Butler from George Edwards of New England Association of Schools & Colleges regarding EWG Sr. High School's Accreditation

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not comment on the Monthly Status Reports.

Business

Special Education -

Maintenance -

Technology

Director of Administration Robert Ross answered Member Bollengier's questions regarding supplemental packet enclosure, Month Ending August 31, 2010 – Budget Summary. Member Bollengier said that his concern is that how ever Mr. Ross and the District Treasurer select to report the budget, that it be consistent.

NEW BUSINESS – Washington, DC 2011 Trip proposal – Jr. High – Vice Chair Cicero made a motion to approve the Jr. High School Washington, DC 2011 trip. Member Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Washington County Regional Planning Council Energy Program – Update – Superintendent Geismar introduced Jeff Broadhead and Rachel Ackerman of the Washington County Regional Planning Council. Mr. Broadhead reminded members about the project, updated members on the progress of the Energy Program, and provided each member with a copy of a Participation Agreement. He requested that the School Committee review and at its next meeting approve the Participation Agreement. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

Policies – Review and Adoption - #8708: Suicide Awareness – Edit(s) – Dr. Geismar pointed out a minor error on policy 8708 – Suicide Awareness that has been edited. He explained that the edits were

inadvertently left off when this policy was approved at the last School Committee meeting.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 4

RIDE Updates – RTTT and Jobs Bill – Superintendent Geismar reminded members that Rhode Island won Race to the Top (RTTT) in round two and will receive \$75 million over four-years to implement the plans that are aimed to improve student achievement throughout the state. He said that the money from RTTT will reside at RIDE and is to be used to provide support to the districts for curriculum development, assessments, data management systems, and educator evaluation systems. SORICO districts are looking at what districts can do together as part of the curriculum piece. He reported that GLE's and GSE's will be replaced by the Common Core and NECAP assessments will be replaced by Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges and Careers (PARCC) beginning the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Dr. Geismar reported that under the jobs bill, the district is slated to receive \$307,172 that must be spent by 2012. However, a concern is that the General Assembly might decide to reduce budgets by the amount districts receive from the government. Dr. Geismar said he would continue to update the committee on this matter.

Family Services – Mental Health Support – Superintendent Geismar said that the asked Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar to come tonight to explain to the School Committee the tremendous opportunity that the district has to provide mental health support to students and families as needed. Mrs. Farrar told members that Special Services had applied for a grant last year totaling \$350,000 and has not heard back yet. Therefore, her department will move forward into a partnership with Family Services of RI. Family Services will establish a satellite office in district to provide an array of mental health services such as family services, counseling, and mental health support for at-risk students. Family Services is willing to come in at no cost to the district. Their services will be billed through families' health insurance and they will work with families that do not have health insurance. Referrals will funnel through the school social worker and school psychologists and will remain highly confidential. In response to Member Zuercher's inquiry, Mrs. Farrar said that Family Services will make themselves available to students and their families during school and after school. Member Zuercher said that she hopes therapeutic issues will be addressed with students primarily after school because it would be difficult for students to return to the classroom after dealing with a crisis. Mrs. Farrar assured Member Zuercher that the district recognizes her concern and stressed that this is an agency that provides these services all the time. Member Zuercher gave her opinion that the district needs to give Family Services directive to provide the majority of services after school. Mrs. Farrar said that Family Services will be presenting to the

Superintendent on Friday and that clarification can be made then. Mrs. Farrar offered to call other participating districts to verify that Family Services work is very proactive. She said that the district is in significant need of this type of service within this community. The program does not end in June. The satellite office is available year round. However, it may look different during summer months. In response to

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 5

Superintendent Geismar's proposal, Member Zuercher said she would like this item to be brought forward again.

Consider, Discuss and Approve Additional Modifications to the High School Grading System – Principal Butler reported that the Student Information System cannot support moving from letter grades to numerical grades beginning with 9th grade students only for this school year, as was previously proposed to and approved by the School Committee. He asked therefore, that the committee accept the New Formula for Numerical Grades in its entirety, as presented in members' packets. Principal Butler answered members' clarifying questions.

Member Zuercher made a motion to accept the numerical grading system as proposed. Member Bollengier seconded the motion. Voted

6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Sr. Project Steering Committee/High School Diploma System Update – Dr. Geismar told the committee that Principal Butler has reviewed all the changes to Senior Project with the high school faculty and the changes are being imposed. Principal Butler reported that the first Steering Committee meeting for this school year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22. The meeting agenda has been posted appropriately.

Approved Charter Amendments Discussion – Dr. Geismar said that at the committees' request, he contacted Attorney Brad Gorham to seek clarification and incorporate language into the Charter regarding the all-day-referendum depicting what the majority means and how the ballot shall be presented to voters. The enclosure in members' packets is what Attorney Gorham provided. Member Bollengier requested that the committee obtain an explanation from Attorney Gorham about how he arrived to this formula. He said that he does not agree with Attorney Gorham's document because this procedure creates an opportunity for some members of the community to flood the school district with amendments. Member Bollengier proposed a ballot/voting scenario and explained how majority vote would work with the scenario. A lengthy discussion ensued and members put forth concerns and comments relating to the presentation of the ballot, the majority vote, how to work the amendments with an all-day referendum, and whether to allow amendments with an all-day

referendum. Member Rafanelli pointed out that Member Bollengier's scenario simulates the procedure used at the District Financial Meeting. Dr. Geismar reminded members that this still needs to go to the General Assembly for approval. Member Rafanelli reminded members that the towns voted to go to an all-day-referendum and the School Committee cannot ignore this matter. Consensus of the committee was to invite Attorney Gorham to attend the next regular meeting to advise and answer clarifying questions. Member Bollengier said he will prepare and bring a ballot on a hypothetical to better demonstrate what he is proposing.

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 6

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported that Metcalf's water system plans are still under review at the Department of Health (DOH). There are continual requests from DOH for additional items and the contactor is responding. The district is working with an expeditor at DOH. Chair DeSack raised the concern that the approval process is taking too long. She asked the Superintendent to contact Senator Maher for assistance. She gave her opinion that the DOH needs to be held accountable.

Director of Administration Robert Ross gave an update on having electrical service installed in the new storage building. He reminded

members of the \$40,000 the School Committee allotted last year for the purchase of the storage building for the track and maintenance department. He said it is EWG Sports 4 Kids responsibility to wire the building for electricity. Chair DeSack asked Mr. Ross to research the cost to wire the building at least on the maintenance storage side of the building. Mr. Ross said he would bring back a list of contractors but this work will probably need to go out to bid.

Chair DeSack told the committee that she received a letter from EWG Sports 4 Kids Member Rob Corriea requesting to disband the Track Building Committee. She asked that disbandment of that committee be added to the next regular meeting agenda and a copy of Mr. Corriea's letter will be enclosed in members' packets.

Mr. Ross and Member Rafanelli briefly discussed coordinating the move of items from the concession stand to the maintenance storage area of the storage building. Chair DeSack recommended asking the towns to dump gravel since that area is soggy and is not paved.

In response to Vice Chair Cicero's inquiry, Mr. Ross reported that the security cameras are installed and operating. They are planted at the doors for point of entry at the schools. The cost to implement the entry card swipes and door swipes will be substantial. It could cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 or more. The district is not going forward with that phase of the security system yet.

Reports/Comments – In response to Member Zuercher's inquiry,

Superintendent Geismar said that due to unforeseen circumstances, Joe Harrington of Merchant Card Services has not been able to start the marketing plan for Project Giveback. Dr. Geismar said he would call Mr. Harrington tomorrow to set up a meeting time. He said he would also get the word out about the program to parents and the community via the PTA and the district website.

Important Dates and Meetings – Tuesday, September 28, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 12, 2010-School Committee Meeting; Tuesday, October 26, 2010-School Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – None

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 14, 2010
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Page 7**

Adjournment - Member Walsh moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Member Zuercher seconded the motion.

Member Bollengier informed Chair DeSack that he cannot attend the next School Committee meeting. Member Walsh said that she might not come to the next meeting because she will be traveling that day. Consensus of the committee was to request Attorney Gorham attend the first meeting in October instead of the September 28 meeting.

Voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK